

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

APPROVED BY S - THE SECRETARY

M:LDBROWN

S/S-O:RELTZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015843

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, OTRA, OCON, PGOV

SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S SPEECH TO AAI CONFERENCE

REF: KINSHASA 0562, 0591

FOR AMBASSADOR HINTON

1. I AM PLEASED THAT YOU TOOK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO TWO OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S CHIEF COLLABORATORS YOUR VIEWS CONCERNING THE IMPROPRIETY OF HIS REMARKS CONCERNING PRESIDENT FORD'S NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR NATHANIEL DAVIS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

2. RATHER THAN LEAVE TO CHANCE THE POSSIBILITY THAT BISENGEMANA OR MOKOLO WILL PASS YOUR WORDS ON TO MOBUTU, I REQUEST THAT YOU SEEK EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. I HAVE READ WITH DISMAY PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S CRITICISM
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OF A PURELY DOMESTIC APPOINTMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT

OF THE UNITED STATES.

B. I DO NOT RECALL AN INSTANCE IN RECENT HISTORY WHEN A FRIENDLY HEAD OF STATE HAS PUBLICLY CRITICIZED SUCH AN APPOINTMENT.

C. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS A MATTER OF POLICY WOULD NEVER OFFER SUCH GRATUITOUS PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANY STATE, MUCH LESS OF THOSE OF A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT.

D. I HAVE VALUED THE FREE AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS I AND MY COLLEAGUES HAVE ALWAYS HAD WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND HIS CHIEF COLLABORATORS AND WE WOULD WISH THEM TO CONTINUE; HOWEVER, I FEEL IT WOULD BE BEST IF THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE CARRIED ON AS IN THE PAST IN PRIVATE MUTUAL EXCHANGES AS BEFITS TWO FRIENDS.

E. PRESIDENT FORD HAS EVERY CONFIDENCE, AS DO I, IN NATHANIEL DAVIS AND SEES NO VALID REASON FOR WITHDRAWING HIS NOMINATION AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY. I CONSIDER HIM AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.

F. I AM SURE THAT, WHEN CONFIRMED, NATHANIEL DAVIS WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN WHOM PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT CAN HAVE FULL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

3. PLEASE REPORT MOBUTU'S REACTION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE015843
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EWMULCAHY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750024-1014
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750126/aaaaawrk.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 KINSHASA 0562, 75 0591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBUTU'S SPEECH TO AAI CONFERENCE
TAGS: OTRA, OCON, PGOV, CG, US, AAI, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO), (DAVIS, NATHANIEL)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006